

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 SAI-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SY-04 SCCT-02 DRC-01

NIC-01 ACDA-19 /155 W

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R 011642Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4717

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 5301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS GR

SUBJECT: AMBATIELOS SPEAKS FOR KKE

REF: A. ATHENS-5179, B. ATHENS-5204

1. SUMMARY. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 31, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER OF GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE), ANTHONY AMBATIELOS, SUPPORTED CARAMANLIS BUT CALLED FOR MORE LIBERALIZATION STEPS. WITH A LIGHT, HUMOROUS TOUCH HE PUT DOWN EVERY OTHER WOULD-BE SPOKESMAN OF THE LEFT - PAPANDREOU, DRAKOPOULOS, ILIOU, GLEZOS AND THEODORAKIS - WHILE RESERVING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE KKE COOPERATING WITH ANY OR ALL OF THESE OTHER LEADING PERSONALITIES OF THE GREEK LEFT
END SUMMARY

2. ON CARAMANLIS, AMBATIELOS CONTINUED THE LINE GIVEN IN HIS POST-YIAROS INTERVIEW (REFTEL A): "WE, THE RESISTANCE, ASK FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL REPRESENT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. WE HAVE
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NOTHING SPECIAL AGAINST CARAMANLIS AT THIS MOMENT. WE CONSIDER

THE RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS A SUCCESS." HE SAID THE WHOLE LEFT STANDS FOR A GOVERNMENT TO LEAD THE COUNTRY WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME TO FREE ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

3. ON THE KKE'S POLITICAL FUTURE, HE SAID HE HOPED LAW 509 OF 1947 WOULD BE REPEALED AND THE KKE COULD OPERATE LEGALLY. REGARDLESS THE KKE "SHALL SUPPORT ANYONE WHO AGREES WITH OUR IDEOLOGY. WITH OUR POSITIONS." HE ALSO REFERRED IN GENERAL TERMS TO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE KKE (INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR BRANCHES), THE DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE AND PAPANDREOU'S PAK.

4. AMBATIELOS OFFERED SOME LIGHTLY CRITICAL COMMENTS ON OTHER LEADING LIGHTS OF THE LEFT. ON ILIAS ILIOU: "A PLAIN CITIZEN... AT THIS MOMENT, ILIOU REPRESENTS NOTHING FOR US, NOR GENERALLY FOR THE LEFT." ON DRAKOPOULOS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE DISSIDENT KKE (REFTEL B), HE SAID HE CASED TO BE A PART OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN 1968. HOWEVER, HE OFFERED TO COOPERATE WITH THAT FACTION IF IT ENDORSED THE KKE POLICY POSITIONS AND AGREED TO STOP USING THE KKE NAME. ON ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, HE OBSERVED "ANDREAS DOES HIS OWN THING AND THERE IS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN US". ASKED WHERE THEODORAKIS BELONGS ON THE LEFT, AMBATIELOS LAUGHED AND ADVISED NEWSMEN TO ASK HIM. ASKED ABOUT THE "CHAOS" FACTION OF GLEZOS, HE LAUGHED AND TOLD NEWSMEN TO DO LIKEWISE. ON FLORAKIS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF HIS OWN KKE, HE SAID FLORAKIS HAD BASICALLY WORKED FOR THE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN TRADE UNIONISM. ABOUT HIMSELF AMBATIELOS VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE GERMANS AS A COMMANDER OF THE ELAS BRIGADE AND ESCAPED, BEEN IMPRISONED BY THE PRE-APRIL 21 CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS, AND ALSO JAILED BY THE JUNTA.

5. ON GENERAL POLICY, AMBATIELOS SAID "CYPRUS HAS PRIORITY AT THE MOMENT. THE KKE ONCE AGAIN DECLARES THAT IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT ALL POPULAR, DEMOCRATIC FORCES BE UNITED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENCE OF THE CYPRIOT REPUBLIC." HE ADDED THAT IN GREECE, "WE ARE ALWAYS AGAINST THE MONARCHY".
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